



PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF CORONER-MARSHAL

MAIN OFFICE
2929 RICHARDSON DR.
AUBURN, CA 95603
PH: (530) 889-7800 FAX: (530) 889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530) 581-6300 FAX: (530) 581-6377



EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Tuesday, April 01, 2014
Date/Time of Occurrence: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 12:30 p.m.
Nature of Event: Missing runner found
Location of Call: Placer County, CA
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

At around 12:30 p.m. today, searchers found missing runner Robert Root. He was alert, walking and talking when found about 2 ½ miles from the Michigan Bluff trailhead of the Western States Trail.

Root, 55, of Modesto, was last seen around 9:30 a.m. Sunday, while running with a group. He was only wearing running shorts, shoes and a light jacket.

He is currently being evaluated at Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, but appears to have no injuries. He is in great spirits. He is hoping to be released from the hospital by tonight.

"The searchers were all awesome," he said from his hospital bed. "I'm so thankful for all the people in my life."

Root said Sunday morning he was trying to catch up with a group of runners ahead of the group he was in, when he took a wrong turn on the trail. He ended up on a cliff overlooking the American River, where he scooted into some shrubbery for warmth and slept off and on throughout the night. The next morning he tried to find his way out, but ended up back at the same spot. He spent the second night in the same area.

He survived on a small amount of water he had with him, plus some supplements that runners typically carry for energy. He said he couldn't stop shaking and compressed and released his muscles over and over to stay warm.

Today, he decided to head "up and west," he said, and when he got to the El Dorado Bridge, he saw searchers in their bright-colored uniforms.